



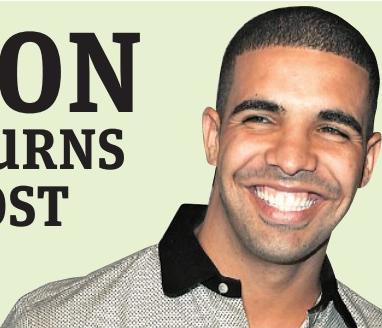
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ROCK ON DRAKE RETURNS HOME AS HOST JUNOS

{page 30}



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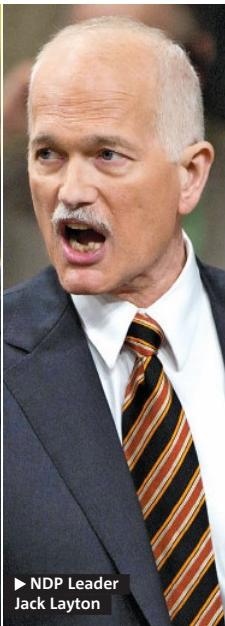
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Fighting for schools to stay open

► Report identifies 12 schools for possible closure, to be discussed next week ► More than 120 people pack school board chambers to express concern

ALY THOMSON
 HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

One year ago, Heather Smith stood before the Halifax Regional School Board asking to keep Upper Musquodoboit Consolidated Elementary school open.

On Thursday, Smith pleaded the same case to the board at a public submissions meeting.

"When I heard that UMCS was being considered for a review and possible closure again, the feelings that went through me were like a roller-coaster," said Smith, whose children are in grades 4 and 6.

"Each and every one of you heard last year why our school shouldn't be put through the review process and you will hear it again this evening."

Parents, students and volunteers gathered in the board chambers Thursday to support their school.

The possible closures come after a provincewide school board budget reduction of two per cent in February and to make up for a \$1-million budget cut.

Multiple speakers for Musquodoboit

Upcoming meetings

The next public submissions meeting will be held March 29 and the board meeting will be held March 30.

Consolidated cited a possible 18-kilometre commute for their children.

All speakers noted a loss of smaller class sizes, time with teachers and sense of community.

Terry Hay read a letter on behalf of her son Dylan, a Grade 4 French immersion student at St. Joseph's Alexander McKay Elementary.

"Some students are working on posters featuring children that are happy and playing games when the school is open and sad and depressed when it is closed."

If the closures went ahead, students in most of the schools would be funnelled into existing schools, the report states. In other cases, new and larger schools would be built.

On Tuesday, Halifax regional council cut \$1.8 million in supplementary funding to the school board over the next four years.

Harper government set to fall

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government is poised for defeat at the hands of the three opposition parties Friday in the House of Commons. With a federal election likely in early May, it seems the political theatre is already well underway. Story, page 10.

From monsters to drag queens

Neptune unveils its new season of plays {page 6}

Quake hits Myanmar

One woman dead, no tsunami triggered {page 17}



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Too early to tell if spate of shootings related, say police

There were four shootings in Halifax overnight Wednesday, but no serious injuries.

A young woman was shot in the leg by a pellet gun while walking in the Gottingen Street area at around 7:45 p.m. About an hour later, someone shot out the window of an unmarked police car parked outside the police community office on Uniacke Street. Two young men were questioned and later released. Police believe the two incidents are connected to two pellet gun incidents on Sunday night when two people were shot at.

Then early Thursday morning police responded to two shots-fired calls in Dartmouth.

The first one was at Trinity Drive at 1:40 a.m.

"A number of shots were fired at a residence at that location. Nobody was hit by any bullets but one individual was struck by debris and received minor injuries," said Const. Brian Palmeter with the Halifax Regional Police.

Shots were fired in the area of Kincardine Drive at 3:34 a.m. and a 32-calibre pistol was found near a home on Rannoch Road by a police K-9 unit.

Palmeter said it's too early in the investigation to know if these two incidents are connected.

"These incidents generally involve the drug and criminal sub-culture," he said. "Generally speaking these incidents are not random." **JENNIFER TAPLIN**



For more local news, visit metronews.ca



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Salter site may be back on the block

► Premier, economic development minister defend Waterfront Development Corporation ► Decision 'not one we took lightly': WDCL CEO Colin MacLean



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The developer behind a \$75-million hotel and condo project is making a last-ditch effort to keep a prime piece of harbourfront real estate.

The Waterfront Development Corporation announced Thursday morning it has taken back the one-acre Salter Block lot from developer Ralph Medjuck's Centennial Group.

According to WDCL, Medjuck recently informed

the crown corporation he couldn't meet the agreed upon deadline for the mixed-use project.

"It's a disappointing step, but a necessary step," Economic Development Minister Percy Paris said yesterday.

"We're anxious to see this property developed and we want to hold onto it and hopefully someone will develop it."

But a late afternoon statement from Medjuck claims he did not tell WDCL he couldn't meet the deadlines.

"CGL has invested a great deal of time and funds in the project which is financially viable and ready to proceed," read the release.

"CGL is reviewing its options at this time."

A meeting between WDCL and the Centennial Group has been scheduled for Friday at 9:30 a.m.

"We share the desire of the public to have the site developed," wrote Medjuck.

"(We) have been committed to this project and have been proceeding with it in a commercially prudent

Mixed-use plan

► Medjuck's plan was to construct two "wave-shaped" buildings, which would include a "boutique hotel," 142 residential units and 75,000 square feet of retail space built between Salter Street and Bishop's Landing.

manner. We remain ready and able to deliver."

The province approved the project on April 20, 2010. The block has sat empty since 2004.

1
news



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High school drama gives one aspiring politico an edge

► Women in Politics and Government event at Pier 21 teaches youth about career opportunities in political fields ► Young women from grades 8 to 12 in schools across the HRM attended



ALY THOMSON

HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Robyn McPhee is ready to take on municipal politics.

McPhee was one of 300 female junior high and high school students at the Women in Politics and Government event yesterday, hosted by Youth in Motion. At 18-years-old, she has her sights set on implementing change in her community.

"I'm interested in politics on the municipal level because I find that you can do more at the lower levels than at the higher levels," said McPhee, who is taking business at the Nova Scotia Community College next year.

McPhee said the recent city hall spending and MLA

"I think it's more that any Canadian should be a part of government, not just women and young people. They need to get minorities into government and into policy making."

ROBYN MCPHEE,
GRADE 12 STUDENT AT PRINCE ANDREW HIGH SCHOOL

expense scandals do not phase her ambitions.

"That drives me towards (government). Being in high school you kind of get used to drama and scandal. It's something that's interesting to me because it's actually bigger issues."

The first-of-its-kind



event in Halifax featured an array of key note speakers such as Megan Leslie, MP for Halifax, Becky Kent, deputy speaker at

the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, and Jennifer Watts, councillor for District 14.

Closing out the event,

Mayann E. Francis, lieutenant governor of Nova Scotia, said young women "are the future."

"Despite the increasing-

ly complex and interconnected world of which we are living, we have reason to be hopeful," said Francis.

ACOA denies claims politics played a role in hiring

Representatives from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency denied claims that Conservatives close to Defence Minister Peter MacKay were offered plush positions with the economic development outfit.

The federal Public Service Commission launched an investigation after Liberal MP Rodger Cuzner accused the government of appointing partisans close

to MacKay to staff positions with ACOA in Prince Edward Island.

"We at ACOA are fully co-operating with that investigation, and will await the findings of (that) investigation," said Richard Gauthier, spokesman for ACOA.

"With respect to staffing processes at ACOA, in that we are a federal government department, like all federal

staffing processes, they are strictly governed by the terms and conditions that are outlined in the Public Service Employment Act."

In terms of the specific complaints on PEI, Gauthier said standard practice was followed.

"That's exactly what happened. It was an external competition, it was open to all Canadians," he said.

"The process goes forward by looking at all the applications that have been put in by the deadline date. They're evaluated against the criteria of the job."

Gauthier did admit that the optics of some staff members' connections might seem suspicious.

"Basically, when it comes to employing people to the public service of

Canada, there's no divergence from the Public Service Employment Act," he said. "If there is, then people can make representations to the Public Service Commission so it's exactly what's happening here."

The claims come on the heels of a federal budget that intends to cut \$15 million from ACOA's budget.

● ALEX BOUTILIER

Q & A

Keith Ashfield, the minister responsible for ACOA, dismissed the claims during question period yesterday.

► "We do not interfere with the hiring practices of our agency," Ashfield told Parliament, in response from Cape Breton-Canso MP Rodger Cuzner.



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Housing co-op loses funding over unpaid reno bills

Community Services Minister Denise Peterson-Rafuse said her department will not be giving more money to a housing co-op that owes money to 17 contractors.

CBC News reported on Wednesday that the North End United Housing Co-Op owes several contractors for renovation work done in 2009-10.

The provincial and federal governments funded the renovations to the tune on \$3.1 million. But Peterson-Rafuse said the bank is closed.

"I know it's a very diffi-

cult position, but I know the taxpayers would be upset with us if every time we had a project of this nature ... that we just write a check to pay for those over-expenditures," said Peterson-Rafuse.

But the government did, in fact, provide more money to the co-op — \$250,000 in the Fall of 2009 shortly after work started.

Peterson-Rafuse said her department is currently working with the co-op to find a solution to the problem — such as fundraising. ■ ALEX BOUTILIER

GAMBLING

Delayed report to see light of day

The province's long-awaited gambling strategy is set to be released Friday.

The Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage announced late Thursday afternoon that the report — originally scheduled to be released last fall — will be made available at noon on Friday.

The strategy was further delayed by Janu-

ary's cabinet shuffle. Previously, the file was the responsibility of Finance Minister Graham Steele. It was transferred to Dave Wilson, minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, on Jan. 11.

The new strategy will replace one written in 2005. It is expected to touch on the business of gaming, problem-gambling prevention and treatment, accountability, as well as the government's position on Internet gambling.

Premier Darrell Dexter ruled out a provincial Internet-gambling service in October 2010.

The strategy was written by former provincial deputy minister Ron L'Esperance.

■ ALEX BOUTILIER



► Charlie Rhindress, associate artistic director at the Neptune Theatre, appears in drag to introduce *La Cage aux Folles*, Neptune's season-ending play for 2011-12. Neptune announced its lineup for next season on Thursday.

From monsters to drag queens

► Neptune hopes to take its audiences around the globe with worldly stories ► New season kicks off with *Frankenstein* on Sept. 13

If the lyrics "Bare necessities/Old Mother Nature's recipes that brings/Bare necessities of life" sound familiar to you, then you'll likely enjoy Neptune's upcoming 2011-2012 season featuring *The Jungle Book*.

Neptune Theatre unveiled the new season Thursday, and it includes some recognizable plays.

"We have created a season of plays that are intelligent, compassionate, engaging, challenging and whimsical," said George Pothitos, Neptune's artistic director, George Pothitos at the season launch.

"Our 49th season will

celebrate life, its diversity and its uniqueness."

The Fountain Hall season will open with *Frankenstein*, the tale of a scientist who creates a creature from stolen body parts that is destined to be an outcast.

During the Christmas season, Neptune will feature *The Jungle Book*, about a man-cub who learns the value of friendship. Pothitos says it's a story that will bring families together over Christmas.

Fountain Hall ends its season with *La Cage aux Folles*, the play that inspired the movie *The Birdcage*. It's a musical about

two very different families whose bond is put to the test — with lots of feather boas and glitter thrown in.

The Studio Series will feature three plays: *Another Home Invasion*, *Communion*,

Tempting Providence. Pothitos says all three will tie in with this season's mission statement to "inspire our audiences with great stories."

■ LAURA WARREN

Playbill

Fountain Hall:

- *Frankenstein* — Sept. 13 to Oct. 9
- *Lost: A Memoir* — Oct. 18 to Nov. 6
- *Mrs. Parliament's Night Out* — Jan. 24 to Feb. 19
- *Intimate Apparel* — Feb. 28 to Mar. 25

- *La Cage aux Folles* — Apr. 10 to May 27
- *The Jungle Book* — Nov. 22 to Jan. 8

Studio Series:

- *Another Home Invasion* — Oct. 11-23
- *Communion* — Feb. 7-19
- *Tempting Providence* — Apr. 24 to May 6

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HRM gearing up for powwow

► Second International Powwow returning to Halifax July 1-3 ► Organizers hope for a turnout like last year

 LAURA WARREN
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

The Membertou 400 powwow last summer was such a success that it's coming back.

Mi'kmaq Association for Cultural Studies (MACS) announced the details yesterday and said it will be similar in size and scope to the event that the Queen attended during her royal visit in July.

"Over 80,000 people

came to the powwow," says MACS' executive director Deborah Ginnish in a release Wednesday.

"MACS has received an overwhelming number of requests from both the aboriginal and non-aboriginal community to do it again this year."

MACS says the upcoming powwow will include international dance and drum competitions, a First Nations vendors' market and a cultural village where people can learn

about the Mi'kmaq culture.

It will also be free, with many of the same events as last year's powwow, which marked the 400th anniversary of the baptism of Grand Chief Henri Membertou in Annapolis Royal.

Ginnish said MACS is very proud to celebrate and share the First Nations culture.

"All of the elements that drew such positive responses from the crowds will be back again."

N.S. coyote bounty to end, department says

Nova Scotia's \$20 per pelt bounty on coyotes will end with this year's trapping season on March 31, the Natural Resources Department announced Thursday.

But the data has to be analyzed before officials can say whether the incentive was successful in reducing coyote numbers.

Mike Boudreau, a wildlife biologist hired to monitor human-wildlife conflict, said figures could be available by mid-April.

"The numbers aren't in. It's too early. But anecdotally, in the first part of January, we saw a 50 per cent increase (in pelts shipped to market) in the same time period as last year," said Boudreau. "Initially it seems like there's a little increase in coyote sightings in urban areas has led to safety concerns.

Based on earlier studies, Boudreau said biologists estimate there are anywhere from 8,000 to 12,000 coyotes in the province.

"That's based on home-range size information that we acquired back in the early '90s when we did work on coyotes."



If ever you see one:

Safety information released Thursday under the acronym BAM encourages anyone who encounters a coyote to "Back away! Act big! Make noise!"

1 "We're really coming into that time of year when a lot of people will be getting out into the woods and fields with better weather," said Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker.

Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker said the government had met its commitment to ensuring safety with a four-step plan outlined last fall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP warn of fraud via Facebook

RCMP say to refrain from posting information such as your birth date, home address, telephone numbers, employment information and especially avoid posting when you'll be absent or away from home on Facebook.

RCMP also say be aware when posting pictures of your home and valuable items. LAURA WARREN

Election will delay centre, says Estabrooks

Bill Estabrooks conceded a federal election and subsequent departure of his counterpart in Ottawa will delay the convention centre deal.

Infrastructure Minister Chuck Strahl has said he will not reoffer in the next election.

ALEX BOUTILIER

3 resorts need funds: Minister

A substantial infusion of cash is urgently needed at three provincially owned resorts in Nova Scotia ahead of the upcoming tourist season, the economic development minister said.

Percy Paris said he will make a presentation to cabinet on what he thinks should be done.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Three-Headed Monster versus the Tyrant ...

- Take your seats, Canada, for the B-movie election
- Liberals, NDP, Bloc set to change the course of history

If it were a B movie, it might be billed as the Three-Headed Monster versus the Tyrant.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government was poised for defeat Thursday at the hands of the three opposition parties in the House of Commons.

The vote Friday would raise the curtain on at least five weeks of political theatre and a federal election in early May.

The rhetorical trailers were already being aired Thursday.

The Tories reprised the evil coalition theme they exploited so successfully following the 2008



► Bev Oda

election, when Harper prorogued Parliament rather than allow his freshly minted minority to be defeated by a Liberal-NDP coalition backed by the Bloc Québécois.

Liberals, New Democrats and Bloquistes

painted Harper as an undemocratic tyrant — and a hypocrite, to boot — and were to highlight their point Friday with a non-confidence motion based on unprecedented contempt-of-Parliament charges.

In their memories will be International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda and allegations she misled the Commons with an altered memorandum.

Harper was expected to formally dissolve Canada's 40th Parliament with a trip to the Governor General Saturday morning, making Election Day either May 2 or May 9.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Stockwell Day says his farewells Thursday in the Commons.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bidding adieu before the big vote

Two cabinet ministers and other MPs who aren't running again delivered their farewells to the House of Commons. Transport Minister Chuck Strahl had a catch in his voice as he thanked those who encouraged him through a bout with cancer. Treasury Board president Stockwell Day praised MPs on all sides of the House for their contributions to the country. Liberal Albina Guarnieri marked the end of 22 years as an MP. Bill Siksay, a one-term New Democrat, said he was honoured to have represented the gay community.



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Yemen's youth power

► Leaders of Yemen's youth uprising set out their demands ► Organizers hoping that several million will turn out for Friday demonstrations

The youth groups who began a month-long uprising said Thursday they wanted a new constitution and the dissolution of parliament, local councils and Yemen's notorious security agencies

in addition to the immediate ouster of the president.

The widening demands appear to reflect the perception that President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime has been badly weakened

by weeks of unrelenting protests, and the defection to the opposition of a string of powerful officials including members of the president's inner circle.

Several senior military

commanders, lawmakers, cabinet ministers, diplomats and provincial governors have also defected to the opposition over the last week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Spaghetti brawl on N.Y.C. train sparks food debate

New York City's subway riders can handle panhandlers, rats and tuneless street musicians. But eating spaghetti in a crowded subway car? Well, that's just going too far.

An Internet video that shows New Yorkers brawling over a passenger's right to nosh noodles on the subway has ignited a debate about what people should and shouldn't do in the nation's largest mass transit system.

The video, posted online anonymously, picks up mid-argument, as a woman twirls onto her fork spaghetti from a takeout container and a passenger across the aisle chides her.

"What kind of animals

► On Internet sites, hundreds of viewers of the spaghetti skirmish debated the smell and the spilling of subterranean snackers.

► Some New York commuters called for a subway system ban on food, like the ones enforced in Washington, San Francisco and other cities. The Port Authority Trans-Hudson trains, which run between New York and New Jersey, already prohibit eating.

eat on the train like that?" says the woman across the aisle.

The diner snaps back with an epithet, and the exchange quickly degenerates into a fistfight.

The video has touched a nerve in a stressed-out city where the commutes are difficult and no perceived slight goes undocumented, thanks to cellphone video cameras. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wife of sex killer wants divorce records sealed

The wife of former colonel and convicted sex killer Russell Williams wants her divorce proceedings kept from the public.

Mary Elizabeth Harriman's lawyer was in an Ottawa court arguing for a seal — or at least a publication ban — on her financial and medical records.

Harriman's lawyer Mary Jane Binks said opening the divorce proceed-

ings to the public would cause her client even greater harm than she has already experienced.

Williams was a rising star in the military and commander at Canadian Forces Base Trenton before being sentenced to life in prison for the murders, a pair of sexual assaults and dozens of fetish break-ins.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Two planes join Libyan mission

► Canadian aircraft will patrol Mediterranean off the coast of Libya ► Mission 'evolving,' says Peter MacKay

The Canadian Forces have sent two Aurora reconnaissance aircrafts to join the seven fighter jets and a frigate already deployed to enforce a UN-mandated no-fly zone and an arms embargo against the regime of dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

The Auroras, out of Comox, B.C., and Greenwood, N.S., carry enough fuel to patrol offshore for 17 hours at a time and are equipped with long-range sensors. They will be based in Italy.

They join HMCS Charlottetown and other coalition vessels in preventing shipments of arms and mercenaries into Libya.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay says NATO has agreed to take over command of blockade operations, but there is still no agreement about the alliance assuming charge of the U.S.-co-ordinated no-fly



► Libyan rebels take a rest on a checkpoint on the frontline near Zwitina, south of Benghazi, eastern Libya, on Thursday. ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

zone.

Much like the Afghanistan mission, there are deep divisions within NATO about assuming responsibility in Libya and some members have imposed restrictions on what their forces can do.

The changing role of coalition air forces was underscored Wednesday by the assistant chief of air

staff, who said two Canadian CF-18s were tasked with air-to-ground attack missions over the last 24 hours.

Neither sortie dropped any bombs, but Maj.-Gen. Tom Lawson said the overall mission is progressing from attacking air threats posed by Libyan jets and helicopters to targets on the ground, such as tanks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SACKVILLE, JUNE 10
Metropolitan Field

EASTERN SHORE, JUNE 17
Eastern Shore Community Centre, Musquodoboit Harbour

DARTMOUTH, JUNE 24
CFB Shearwater



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Fight back against cancer now. Create or join a Relay For Life team and start collecting pledges at cancer.ca/relay

celebrate remember fight back

Israel responds

► 'Israel will not tolerate these terror attacks,' says Israeli defence minister ► Two years of relative calm unravelling

Israeli aircraft struck the Gaza Strip Thursday in response to militant rocket and mortar attacks, stoking concerns that a grave new round of hostilities will fill the vacuum left by an impasse in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

Militants operating near the Israeli border sent at least nine rockets and mortars — including two rockets that reached the

city of Ashdod — flying at Israeli communities throughout the day, drawing an Israeli air strike in retaliation. No injuries were reported on either side.

Israel's inability to halt the rocket fire has drawn public criticism, especially since Israel has spent an estimated \$200 million developing a system that is meant to shoot down the

U.S. response

U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates called the rocket attacks "repugnant" and defended the Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip as legitimate self-defence.

short-range rockets that militants use.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria considers civil liberties

The Syrian government pledged Thursday to consider lifting draconian restrictions on political freedom and civil liberties in an attempt to quell a week-long uprising that protesters say has left dozens fatally shot by security forces.

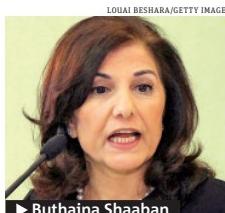
The pledges appeared unlikely to satisfy demonstrators in the southern city of Daraa, where thousands

have been calling for liberty, defying the crackdown as they take to the streets for funeral marches.

Presidential adviser Butaina Shaaban told reporters in the capital, Damascus, that President Bashar Assad's government would consider lifting a state of emergency, in place since 1963, that allows people to be arrested without war-

rant and imprisoned without trial.

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Yet another quake hits

► This time Myanmar jolted, woman killed ► Faraway Bangkok shaken ► No tsunami, tremor too far inland

Is this the year of the earthquake? First, New Zealand and Japan. Now Myanmar, also known as Burma.

A powerful quake struck northeastern Myanmar Thursday night, killing one woman and shaking buildings as far away as Bangkok. No tsunami was generated.

Homes and at least one bridge were damaged in several villages along Myanmar's borders with Thailand and Laos, residents said.

There were also reports of minor damage in northern Thailand, where a woman died when a brick wall collapsed on her.

Cracks spread in the foundations of some build-

Deep danger

The 6.8-magnitude quake was 10 kilometres deep, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It's difficult to get a comprehensive picture of damage in the country's remote northeast where communications, even at the best of times, are sketchy. The military-run government also tightly controls information.

ings in the province surrounding the city of Chiang Rai, about 90 kilometres from the epicentre. The spires fell off two pagodas.

"The tremor was so

strong and things fell down from the shelves. It was very scary, and we all ran out to the streets," said a 25-year-old woman who runs a mini-mart in Tachileik, a Myanmar town near the border.

Buildings swayed hundreds of kilometres away, including in Bangkok, Hanoi, Vietnam, and Mandalay, Myanmar.

"We are afraid to go back into the house," said a 34-year-old woman from Mandalay.

Australian Max Jones was in his 27th-floor Bangkok apartment when his building shook so hard he had to grab the walls to keep from falling. "It was bloody scary," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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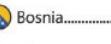
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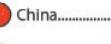
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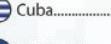
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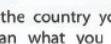
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Callebaut fined over hot chocolate

Famed chocolatier Bernard Callebaut was fined \$150,000 on Thursday for taking assets from his former company after it was put in receivership. Part of that is penalty for what Calgary Court of Queen's Bench Justice Barbara Romaine called a serious breach of the receivership order.

Callebaut admitted he

removed more than 200 boxes of bulk sweets, chocolate moulds and other items. Most were returned.

Callebaut, who started a new company, Papa Chocolat, just before Christmas, apologized for taking the items. "Looking at it afterwards, it was a big mistake and I should never have done it," he said.

He said the people who

took over his business went after him to get even for his setting up the rival company.

But, Sky Wensel, lawyer for the numbered company that purchased Chocolaterie Bernard Callebaut from receivership, said, "there was a lot of property taken to start a competitive business."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rogers called to account for unwanted calls

- CRTC fines company \$275,000
- Now if only they would outlaw those pesky sales calls at dinnertime

Rogers Communications Inc. has agreed to donate \$275,000 to post-secondary schools as part of a settlement with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, which launched an investigation into its telemarketing practices.

The federal regulator said Thursday that Rogers has agreed to conditions over its use of automated calling to tell its prepaid mobile customers how to buy more minutes. Rogers is the latest of the Big 3 telecommunications companies to come under fire from the CRTC for its telemarketing practices. Similar agreements were reached earlier with Telus and Bell Canada, neither of whom admitted fault.

Rogers did not admit

Don't call me

- The CRTC's Unsolicited Telecommunications Rules are designed to reduce unwanted calls to Canadians.
- Automated calling devices can be used only with a customer's prior consent.
- However, they can be used without consent by police, fire departments, schools and hospitals with a public-service message.

fault but agreed to stop making the calls without customer consent. The company also said it would donate \$175,000 to the Ecole polytechnique de Montreal and \$100,000 to the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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- ★ Record your video at the *My Nova Scotia* video booth at Saltscapes Expo, Exhibition Park, April 29-May 1.

Over the next several weeks, 21 lucky Nova Scotians will be chosen to star in their own TV commercial. Each spot will run for one week, beginning in early summer and running into the fall. Visit novascotia.com for contest details.



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RIM shares fall after solid fourth quarter

Research In Motion Ltd. shares dropped 10 per cent in after-hours trading on Thursday as investors grew jittery about its future. Shares lost \$6.67 to \$57.42 in New York, even as the company reported a 32 per cent jump in its fourth-quarter profit and delivered results that were in line with analysts' expectations.

The Waterloo, Ont., company released the results amid growing hype surrounding its PlayBook



- New BlackBerry smartphones will use the same operating system as the soon-to-launch PlayBook.

tablet, which debuts across North America on April 19.

"The launch of the PlayBook may well be the most significant development for RIM since the launch of the first BlackBerry device in 1999," co-chief executive Jim Balsillie told analysts after announcing a profit of \$934 million US.

Balsillie said a number of companies will be trying our playbooks in the coming weeks as the company fights for market share against Apple's iPad and tablets using Google's Android operating system.

A new generation of more powerful BlackBerry smartphones using the operating system in the PlayBook will also be released this year, he said.

RIM shot

- RIM shipped 14.9 million BlackBerry smartphones in its latest quarter.
- Kris Thompson of National Bank says he expects RIM to sell 500,000 of its PlayBook tablets by the end of May, with 350,000 going to business users and the rest to consumers.

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Don't write off cheques just yet

- Cheque payments in Canada expected to decline to \$113 billion by 2014, down from \$144 billion in 2009
- But a paper trail still has its uses, experts say



RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cheques may seem old-fashioned in a world gone digital. They're costlier, take longer to process and are a good deal more bothersome than swiping a piece of plastic or tapping a computer keyboard. Nevertheless, the paper payment system still has certain benefits, financial experts say.

"I think the cheque's future is downward, but it's going to be with us for a while," says Christie Christelis, president of Technology Strategies International in Oakville, Ont. Over the past 15 years, the debit card has displaced the cheque almost completely in the retail sector, he says.

But while it's cheaper to pay bills using online banking, schools, summer camps and most small busi-

nesses still rely on cheques.

"It's a useful tool," says Igor Romanov, owner of ARS International, an appliance-repair business in Montreal. "It's less expensive for the customer and less problems for me," he says, adding he has had very few bad cheques. Otherwise, Romanov says he would have to pass on to customers the price of a wireless payment device.

NEBS Canada, which supplies cheques to small businesses, says the use of

cheques has remained relatively stable in recent years.

"Mostly, it's for the paper trail," says Wes Carrington, associate product marketing manager at NEBS in Midland, Ont. He says NEBS continues to improve security features to prevent cheque fraud.

"And when you're doing your accounts payable or payroll, it's always nice to have that receipt to show that you've made the payment," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Retail. L.L. Bean

► An employee prepares an order for shipping at L.L. Bean in Freeport, Maine. The outdoors and clothing retailer is offering no-strings-attached free shipping.

PAT WELLENBACH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The shipping news

As more and more retailers turn to free shipping to lure customers, L.L. Bean upped the ante on Thursday by waiving shipping fees all the time, with no minimum order. The offer applies to standard two- to five-day shipping by UPS. It doesn't include furniture or canoes.

Market moment

| TSX | Dollar | Oil | Natural gas |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | |
| - 57.81 (14,029.37) | + 0.47¢ (102.44¢ US) | - 15¢ US (\$105.60 US) | \$1,434.90 US (- \$3.10 US) |
| — | — | — | — |

MARK SOSKOWSKI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

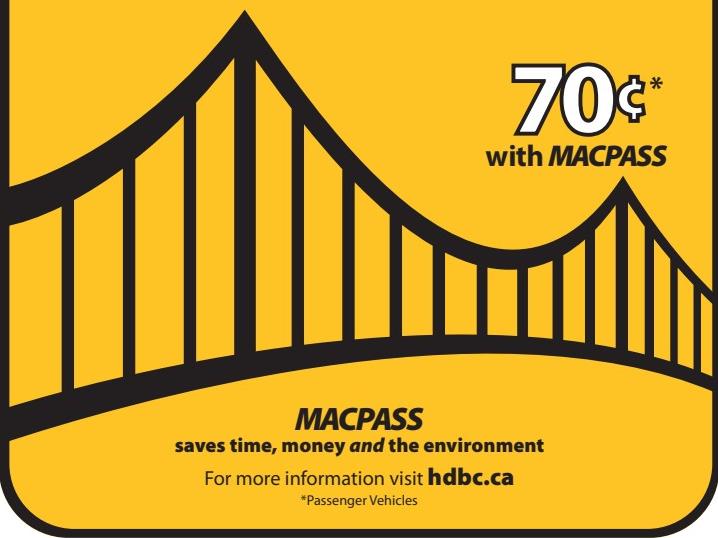


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JON TATTIE/FOR METRO

5 MINUTES WITH: GEORGE POTHTOTOS

Being an artistic director is second nature for George Pothitos. He earned his title at the Neptune Theatre in Halifax after nine years of being artistic director at the Sudbury Theatre Centre in Ontario.

What do you expect from the upcoming season?

I expect a lot of people to come see it, I expect them to find different things in it. There's a lot of what I call difference, diversities if you want to call it that, and stories that aren't part of their stories ... To let people in on other people's stories. I'm hoping that they will discover

and maybe sometimes see themselves, see their families in a different configuration ... They're all new, the Jungle Book is a new script as well and that's again a story about a family and a child finding its way through society.

Which show do you hope to get the best reaction from?

I hope they surprise me with La Cage Aux Folles, in hopes that they will try it, that they will not pre-judge it ... I hope they let loose a little bit and come see it.

Which show are you most excited for?

I only pick them because I'm so excited by all of

them. I love them all for different reasons ... They all have their own little things, so I'm excited at the experience overall.

Which show do you think will attract the most people?

They're so different, no matter what you do they will always attract (different people). Some people only like musicals ... I'm hoping they'll come out for Frankenstein, and I'm hoping they'll come out for La Cage ... My best time of year is Christmas, I love that holiday, that's why we do them, there's nothing better to see families together. I'm hoping those three will have the widest

appeal so people can discover Neptune and the other plays.

What are some highlights from this season that stand out?

Doing Romeo And Juliet and West Side Story is a dream because nobody can do that unless they're big companies, and for us to be able to do that, that Shakespeare hat trick was just a dream come true for us to be able to do three different things that can come together and create a fourth ... which is that it's educational with a small "e" and it's rarely done.

● METRO

Cartoon



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Treasure trove of artifacts

Worth mentioning

The discovery of ancient stone tools at an archaeological dig in Texas could push back the presence of humans in North America, perhaps by as much as 2,500 years.

Thousands of artifacts dating to between 13,200 and 15,500 years ago were uncovered by researchers led by Michael R. Waters of Texas A&M University. They report the discovery in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

The find was located five feet below materials left by the well-known Clovis culture, which was once thought to have been the first American settlers around 13,000 years ago.

'Holy Grail'



It was "like finding the Holy Grail," Waters said. To find what appears to be a large open-air campsite "is really gratifying. Lucky and gratifying."

The trove of 15,528 artifacts, including chipping debris from working stones and 56 tools such as blades, scrapers and choppers, was found in the

Buttermilk Creek complex near Austin.

The location is the oldest credible archaeological site in North America, Waters said at a briefing. The artifacts were found in a 20-centimetre layer beneath 1.5 metres of earth and other material from later human occupation at the site.

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Metro Minute at Halifax Cheer Expo

Grab your pom-poms and leave your indoor voice at the door. The eighth annual Halifax Cheer Expo Grand Championships is coming to the Halifax Forum Saturday and Sunday.

Hosting 82 teams from across Canada, the largest cheerleading competition in Atlantic Canada features both cheerleading and dance competitions.

Local teams heading to

the competition are Halifax Cheer Elite, Dartmouth Cheer Force, Cheer Extreme, and Saint Mary's and Dalhousie universities, among others.

The action begins at 9 a.m. Saturday and awards will be given out at 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Spectator tickets range from \$14 to \$20 and children younger than five are free.

● METRO

Three days to play

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Christine Moignard

HALIFAX

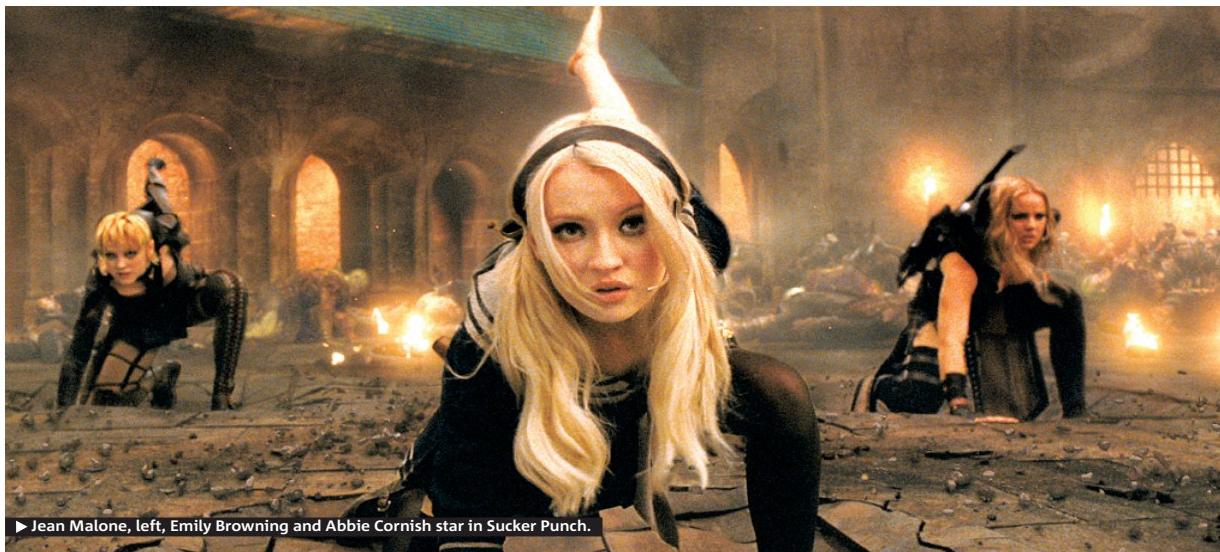
No. Well, it's not that I think there shouldn't be an election, I just think it's a bad time to be having an election because there's not enough consensus to have a majority government. I just wish there wasn't one.



Denise Bradshaw

TORONTO

Anything that gets Stephen Harper out of office — I mean anything. I think he's a crook and he reminds me of a Dick Cheney type of guy.



► Jean Malone, left, Emily Browning and Abbie Cornish star in *Sucker Punch*.

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
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Who's the Sucker?

► Richard Crouse and Mark Breslin debate the merits of *Sucker Punch*
► 300 director Zach Snyder brings the visuals, but movie lacks plot and heart

Richard Crouse: Mark, the first thing that came to mind after watching *Sucker Punch* was, "What the heck was that?" The visual sensualist in me loved the look of it, but the rest of me wanted other things. Like a story. Or characters. It made my eyeballs dance, but left the rest of me bored. You?

Mark Breslin: Bored would be an improvement on how I felt. I HATED this thing. It was structured and shot like a video game. Angry Birds has more character development. And the acting? The lead, Emily Browning, had one expression throughout, a doleful countenance that made me think she had a gastrointestinal problem. Can you find anything good to say about this flick, Richard?

Plot synopsis

Emily Browning plays Baby Doll, wrongfully imprisoned in a mental institution where a sadistic orderly, Blue Jones (Oscar Isaac), has her scheduled for a lobotomy. As it turns out this medical facility is also facilitating more than just its patients, so Baby

Besides the "look"?

RC: It's hard to find much to say about this other than commenting on the look. The soundtrack is interesting and Snyder has a way with a camera, just not so much with the story. I also expected more from the action sequences. Unlike *Kill Bill*, another girl power movie with samurai swords, the action scenes here are all basically the same. Tarantino understood the value of the

Doll hatches an escape plan involving a mix of fantasy and reality. Aided by four other inmates she has just one week to get away before her scheduled operation.

Ratings:

Richard: ⚡⚡⚡ for visuals,
⚡ for everything else = ⚡⚡
Mark: ⚡

violence and changed it up. Snyder doesn't.

MB: Snyder is to Tarantino as Salieri is to Mozart ... I will give Jena Malone credit for making me feel something and it was nice seeing Scott Glenn, even though he's looking more like a carving board every day. But the cruelty of the day. But the cruelty of the movie wore me down, and the idea of a mental institution used as a front for a brothel was too ridiculous even as a fantasy within a

fantasy. And what's with Jon Hamm's cameo at the end? Huh?

RC: I cannot imagine why Jon Hamm would take this role. It's one of those parts that the characters talk about a great deal but when they finally show up on screen they only have three or four lines. He could have shot this on his lunch break from *Mad Men*. I don't get it. I do get Abbie Cornish however. For one thing she looks like a young Nicole Kidman, and for another she, for me, was the best part of the movie.

MB: The best part of the movie for me was when it ended. By the way, one of the production credits reads "A Cruel and Unusual Production." Nuff said.

RC: Agreed. High ain't-it-cool factor, but no heart.



Scene in brief



Chris Brown apologized for his destructive tantrum at Good Morning America earlier this week, explaining that he was surprised that his attack on Rihanna was brought up during his interview and needed to "let out steam" after getting upset.

ABC News said the 21-year-old singer smashed a window in his dressing room Tuesday after he was interviewed by GM co-host Robin Roberts on the show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The King's Speech washed out with soap, PG-13 version to be released

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Movie review

Hobo knows what the fans want

Hobo With A Shotgun

Genre: Action
Director: Jason Eisener
Stars: Rutger Hauer, Gregory Smith, Robb Wells

While most Canadian films can be described as small-scale introspective dramas, Hobo With A Shotgun is pure exploitation trash. It might not sound like it, but that's actually a good thing.

This is easily the most ludicrously entertaining movie to emerge from our country in quite some time. A blood-drenched homage to the twisted genre faire that first-time director Jason Eisener watched on worn out VHS tapes growing up.

It's about a dirty little town where everyone murders, rapes, maims, and tortures to appease a corrupt crime lord and amuse themselves on weeknights. Only a transient hobo with a shotgun, a teen-prostitute



sidekick, and a dream of owning a lawn care business can make things right.

Eisener knows the type of movie he's making and has no pretensions of creating art. Instead, he throws as much blood and humour on the screen as possible, pummeling the audience with gory spectacle until they are entertained. With a fantastic lead turn from Rutger

Hauer and countless cameos from cult Canadian actors like The Trailer Park Boys' Robb Wells, every character is memorable in a two-dimensional trash movie way. Destined to play to squealing (and possibly inebriated) audiences at late night screenings for years, cinematic guilty pleasures don't come much more pleasingly offensive than this. **PHIL BROWN**



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

Genre: Comedy
Director: David Bowers
Stars: Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick

••½
The second cinematic adaptation of the hugely popular series of books, Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules follows Greg

Heffley and his continuing transition into awkward adolescence. While the story primarily focuses on Greg's tumultuous relationship with his brother, the episodic plotting struggles to find balance despite several genuinely funny and authentic moments.

• STEVE GOW



West Is West

Genre: Comedy
Director: Andy deEmmony
Stars: Aqib Khan, Om Puri

•••
A nicely shaped sequel to 1999's hit comedy East is East, West is West picks up the story of the Khan family — whose Pakistan-born paterfamilias George (Om Puri) spend the first film

struggling with his sons' assimilation into British society — five years later. In this instalment, George drags youngest son Sajid (Aqib Khan) to Pakistan to foster an appreciation for his heritage, but the story is really about the older man and the impossibility of having a foot in two cultures at once. • ADAM NAYMAN



Carmen 3D

Genre: Opera
Director: Julian Napier
Stars: Christine Rice, Bryan Hymel, Aris Argiris

•••
Carmen 3D is the latest attempt to bring the live opera experience to movie theatres, this time taking on Carmen and Don Jose's dirty, tragic dance. The

stage production itself is remarkable, filled with matadors, outlaws, gypsies, live horses, vast choruses, talented dancers, knife fights, and bosoms all popping out of the screen in 3-D. In the end, though impressive, this is no substitute for the live experience. • PHIL BROWN

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Monaghan on board for repeats

- ▶ Source Code actress had fun with replaying scene after scene ▶ Shaking trains however, not as fun



Source Code is an odd film that falls somewhere between a sci-fi action movie and Groundhog Day. Jake Gyllenhaal stars as a soldier assigned to experimental technology that allows him to repeatedly relive the last eight minutes leading up to a terrorist attack on a commuter train until he uncovers the man responsible.

Over the course of the mission he also falls for a mysterious young woman played by Michelle Monaghan, eight minutes at a time. Metro got a chance to speak with Monaghan, and the actress admitted that she initially struggled with high concept screenplay.

"It was a little tough to wrap your head around at first, but very quickly I was sucked into it," Monaghan said. "The script constantly different realities to help us keep things straight on the set. We all came up with funny names for each reality.

The first was called 'Alfred Hitchcock Source Code' because Jake's clueless and I'm mysterious. It was silly, but also the only way we could distinguish between the scenes."

ing challenge for Monaghan, who had to essentially replay the same scene with incremental changes leading up to an inevitably explosive climax.

"I was really excited and

Despite all of the logistical challenges inherent in such a complex concept, the actress joked that the biggest challenge she faced shooting was something else entirely.

"The only thing that got us after a while was that the train set was constantly shaking, so when we got off all the actors would stumble across the sound stage. I'm sure the crew loved it."



► Michelle Monaghan stars in *Source Code*, which opens next Friday.

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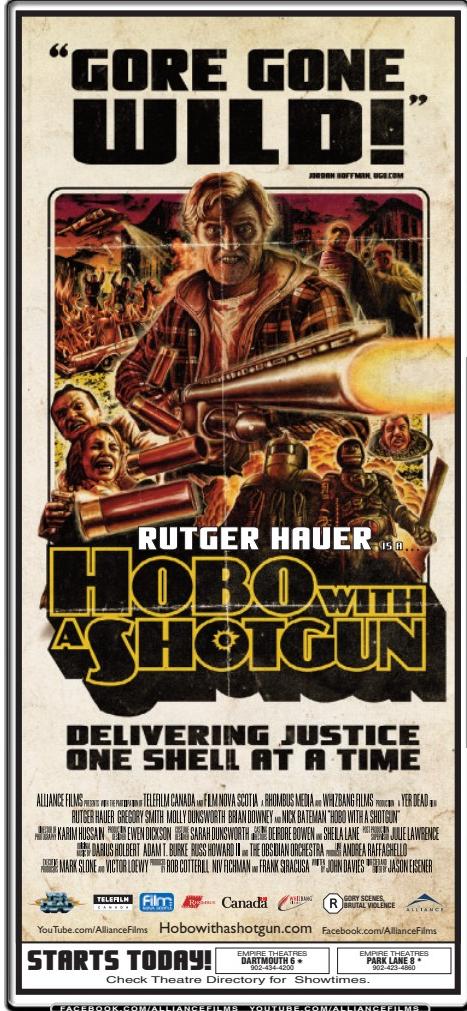
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Bachman reveals inspiration for hit song



Winnipeg rock legend Randy Bachman says a run-in with some shady characters spawned one of the Guess Who's biggest hits.

At the Juno Songwriters' Circle concert Wednesday night, Bachman said he was on tour with the Guess Who in San Francisco in late '60s when three guys with "muscles and leather jackets" walked toward

him "with a look" in their eyes.

As he crossed the street to avoid them, a car pulled up and one of the guys' girlfriends got out and read him the riot act for slacking off at home.

"And then she said: 'Furthermore, baby, when you get home you ain't gettin' no sugar tonight,'" Bachman recounted as he launched into No Sugar

Tonight for a cheering audience that included opera star Measha Brueggergosman.

The anecdote was one of many shared by the artists at the Massey Hall show, hosted by country singer-songwriter Johnny Reid.

Other artists in the bill included Dan Hill, Luke Doucet, Lynn Miles, Royal Wood and Sylvia Tyson.

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'We turned it into a rock concert'

IAN GORMELY
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

With events taking over Toronto throughout this week, the Junos have become an inescapable force. That saturation should only increase as Sunday's awards ceremony grows near.

CTV, the network that has broadcast the awards for the last 10 years, has packed Juno week with an additional 90 hours of Juno coverage over the broadcaster's slew of specialty channels.

"It's about the viewers and the fans being up close to their favourite bands," says Susanne Boyce, CTV's president of creative, content, and channels. "There's so much to participate in."

John Brunton, executive producer of the show for the last 17 years, agrees.

"The Junos are different from the Grammys in that they're a fan-friendly show," Brunton says.

The Junos were among



► Drake will host Sunday's Junos ceremony.

the first awards shows to move the ceremony out of small, stuffy amphitheatres and into stadiums.

"We turned it into a rock concert."

Of course it's the live performances that inevitably imprint themselves onto Canadian psyches.

And this year's 40th anniversary show features a diverse swath of artists performing on what Brunton describes as the most high-tech set the Junos has ever attempted.

"When we started, the set looked like the Wheel of Fortune," says Brunton. Back then it was difficult to get Canadian artists to perform, let alone international ones. This year, classic artists like Sarah McLachlan will perform next to acts like Chromeo, Tokyo Police Club and "the hottest indie band in the world," Arcade Fire.

Leading the Juno charge of course is Drake, returning home to host the big show as well as competing for album and artist of the year honours.

"Who would have predicted a few years ago that the hottest rap artist in the world would be from Toronto," says Brunton.

"We can compete with anyone in the world when it comes to music."



Follow Ian's Juno
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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Atlantic Sleep Apnea Services celebrates 10 years in business

Atlantic Sleep Apnea Services was established in 2001 to meet the growing need for treatment in sleep disorders.

Sleep apnea is as common as adult diabetes and affects more than 12 million people according to the National Institute of Health. Sleep Apnea can strike anyone at any age but the vast majority remains undiagnosed and therefore untreated.

90% of people who have sleep apnea don't know they have it! Episodes of choking or gasping for air may occur hundreds of times throughout the night. You probably will not have any recollection of struggling for breath. It is usually the bed partner who first notices that the person is struggling to breathe. "Our patients come in ex-

hausted and looking for help", says Betty MacDonald (office manager). "People are amazed at how much their life is affected by their poor quality of sleep."

Clinical studies have shown a link between sleep-disor-

ders and a physical exam. A Sleep Study is used to determine if you indeed suffer from a sleep disorder. There are two types, either an "in-home study" or "in-lab study". With a referral from your doctor, it will be determined what sleep study is best suited for you.

"Our patients feel very welcome here and know they can discuss their needs with our staff", says MacDonald.

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dered breathing and many medical problems such as chronic pain syndrome, adult diabetes, high blood pressure and stroke, but the majority are just plain tired!

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Testimonial

Two years ago, I was accused of keeping the whole neighborhood awake at night with my buzz saw snoring. Today, I am probably the quietest healthiest sleeper on the block thanks to Atlantic Sleep Apnea of Lower Sackville. A friend suggested I check them out and

I found a very professional, caring, helpful staff who were there for ME!

My breathing has improved greatly and I have more energy. Even my attitude has changed for the better. I would highly recommend to anyone who

needs this type of help to talk to the helpful staff at Atlantic Sleep Apnea. You'll see what service, professionalism and caring really means.

Thank you Atlantic Sleep Apnea!
Bill - Lower Sackville



(Top left) Office manager Betty MacDonald helps fit a patient with a unit to treat sleep apnea. (Bottom left) Carol Ann Christal is one of the friendly staff members at Atlantic Sleep Apnea Services. (Right) Darrell Kline is one of the co-owners of Atlantic Sleep Apnea Services.

Juno who'll win?

Arcade Fire stunned the music world by winning album of the year at the Grammys last month, so the Montreal rockers will not be cast as the plucky underdogs heading into this weekend's Junos.

After the band's shocking win in the Grammys' top category for their third album, *The Suburbs*, they now look more like this year's Juno giants.

Most observers think the band is a shoo-in to claim album of the year at the Junos this Sunday. Heck, even the competition is giving Arcade Fire the win.

"If the Junos don't award Arcade Fire with album of the year – especially after the Grammys giving it to them, (and) it is a great album – I'd find that hard to believe," said Scotland-born, Toronto-bred country star Johnny Reid, who's up for four awards including – yes – album of the year.

But even if the evening's biggest prize winds up being the foregone conclusion that some analysts expect, the Junos' 40th anniversary bash will feature several



► Arcade Fire pose backstage with the award for album of the year at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 13, 2011.

other interesting storylines throughout its extended two-and-a-half-hour broadcast this Sunday (CTV, 8 p.m. ET).

Many of the evening's biggest categories feature established Juno favourites competing with relative newbies.

Group of the year, for instance, will pit critical darlings Arcade Fire and Broken Social Scene against veteran St. John's, N.L., trio Great Big Sea (who have racked up 11 career nominations but, oddly, have never won), hard-rock combo Three Days Grace and the slick, radio-ready rap-pop newcomers Down With Webster.

And then there's the 17-

year-old teen-pop titan Justin Bieber, nominated four times this year. The Junos broke many a lovesick teenager's heart last year by shutting out the formerly mop-topped crooner, who still braved the stage for an acoustic performance of his ubiquitous hit, Baby.

In the year since, he's remained atop the pop heap while (somehow) building his already enormous following and releasing a hit 3-D movie. He also might have modestly increased his cred with two Grammy nominations and prominent critical plaudits from the likes of the New York Times.

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The Bethenny brand

- Real Housewives of NYC star releases her own book
- Frankel plans to write more in the future

When Bethenny Frankel first pitched her idea for a low-calorie, ready-to-drink bottled margarita to liquor companies, she got rejected, so she decided to make and distribute it herself.

"Little old me, who knew nothing about the booze business, said, 'You know what? This is a good idea. I know it. I'm acting on it,'" she told The Associated Press.

Now, more than 100,000 cases of the Skinnygirl Margarita ship annually, and Fortune Brands Inc. announced Monday that it bought the brand for an undisclosed amount.

Frankel talks about her drive in her new book, *A Place of Yes*, in which she presents 10 rules to live by in life.

The rules help her "keep moving forward" and "break the cycle ... of inner noise that tries to hold me back," she wrote.

Frankel placed second on Martha Stewart's version



of *The Apprentice* in 2005, then returned to reality television on Bravo's *The Real Housewives of New York City* in 2008.

That's when Bethenny Frankel became a brand. She now has her own TV show, *Bethenny Ever After*, as well as a workout DVD. Her first book, *Naturally*

Thin, was a New York Times bestseller.

And more Skinnygirl liquor is coming, including a white sangria, mojito, sweet tea vodka lemonade and a cosmopolitan-type cocktail. There's also a daily cleanse, skin-care line and shapewear.

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Zee knows the biz

They say what comes around goes around in fashion – and that goes for the mistakes, too.

Joe Zee, creative director at Elle magazine, is setting out to right those wrongs, though, in a new Sundance Channel reality show called *All On the Line*.

On the show, he'll work with designers struggling to make a viable business out of their creative visions. They all have talent, says Zee, but not always business acumen.

"Every designer fancies themselves an artist, but that's not a business. Marc Jacobs has made a brilliant career marrying art and commerce," says Zee, who grew up in Toronto and now lives in New York.

What Jacobs understands is that while it's important to have a unique point of view, it's equally important that the view is viable and fuels retail consumer demand, Zee explains. It's why Michael Kors, Donna Karan and even Rodarte are known beyond the microcosm of

the fashion world, while All On the Line participants Radenoro, Gemma Kahng and Dana Maxx are not – at least not yet, he says.

His caveat, though: "That's not license to make a basic black dress or a slip dress every season."

Zee's other words of wisdom for aspiring fashion designers out there:

"Understand that most customers are not models,

nor are they model-size. You have to see that your clothes need life beyond a 16-year-old who is 5-foot-10 and a hundred pounds. You need to be able to envision women of different ages and body types wearing your clothes."

-On that note, be age-appropriate for your potential clients, too. Know your audience – and don't design hot pants for anyone not a teenager.

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► Joe Zee's *All on the Line* debuts Tuesday.

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Second round for Seda on Treme

Pacific veteran plays a venture capitalist looking to make money off hurricane-devastated New Orleans

A crowded nightclub is the setting. Ragtime music echoes through the smoke-filled room.

Actor Jon Seda walks toward the end of the bar, takes a seat and begins a shady conversation with a city insider about what's happening in post-Katrina New Orleans.

And ... cut!

The room comes alive. The crew begins moving lights, cameras, cables, chairs. Extras sprint from one end of the room to the other, back to their marks.

Makeup artists and hair stylists move toward Seda and his scene-mate, actor Dan Ziskie, to remove the shine from their faces and put stray hairs back in place as they prepare for another take in season two of the HBO series, *Treme*.

Seda, known for his roles in *The Pacific* and *Homicide: Life on the Street*, brings to life a new character in *Treme*: Nelson Hidalgo, a venture



► Jon Seda

capitalist who comes to New Orleans looking to help the city rebuild a year after the killer storm, while helping himself in the process.

"This character is just the beauty of David Simon," said Seda, during a recent break in filming. "He (Simon) digs deep and tells the truth — the good, the bad and the ugly."

Seda said Hidalgo looks to capitalize on an opportunity, as many people did after post-hurricane flooding ravaged New Orleans in 2005, and in the end comes to love the city and all that it has to offer.

"You know, a lot of money came through here after the hurricane and there are a lot of questions left about where that money is now. Those are the types of stories that should be told and that Simon tells so well," Seda said.

After Katrina, billions of dollars in federal aid poured in to help the city rebuild. An estimated 80 per cent of New Orleans was flooded in the storm's aftermath and for a time the city was abandoned.

Season Two picks up in

2006 and looks at a period in the city when crime "came back with a vengeance," said Simon, the executive producer and co-creator with Eric Overmyer of the series based on the city's Treme neighbourhood and the people who live there.

"Schools reopened in a schizophrenic form, there was a lot of discussion about land use and urban planning and there was a lot of gamesmanship about where the money was and how a lot of the money never made it to where it was supposed to go. These things are the backdrop for what these characters are experiencing."

Simon said this season he's also looking to showcase some of the emotions that ran rampant in the city.

"Everyone thought it would be easier," Simon said. "Initially, people were living on adrenaline. A lot of people were sus-

tained by a sense of mission, of just physically trying to get back. But once they got back ... It got harder for people and a lot were surprised by that."

Seda said he's jazzed to be a part of a series that chronicles an important part of America's history.

"Katrina was such a traumatic event," he said. "But it also is a big part of our history. I think what happened here can't be and shouldn't be forgotten. It's on par with what happened to the twin towers in New York. There's a lot to be learned from this. I think something great comes out of every great tragedy and the City of New Orleans embodies that spirit and *Treme* shows that spirit to the world. There's not many shows that touch you like this one does."

Simon has worked with Seda before and said his portrayal of Hildago is spot-on.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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► *The Killing* premieres April 3 at 9 p.m. ET on AMC.

More than murder in TV's *The Killing*

AMC's new drama takes stock of the living after a teenager is murdered. Originally a hit in Denmark, the show has been adapted for an American audience

From the first moments of *The Killing*, the mood is foreboding.

The climate for the show's Seattle setting is wet. Water plays a key role on this series, and you feel you could catch cold just by watching. But you can't turn away. You're hooked by the simple spectacle of ordinary people living their lives.

Then, catching you by surprise only by how long it takes to confirm, a murderer will disrupt the lives of everyone in sight.

The Killing, which premieres April 3 at 9 p.m. ET, is the latest entry in AMC's portfolio of original dramas that began, of course,

with *Mad Men* four years ago and most recently saw the wildly popular attack last October by *The Walking Dead*.

In keeping with the AMC formula of defying formulas, *The Killing* has little in common with the network's other dramas other than its fierce distinctiveness.

This is a whodunit, unleashing Homicide Detective Sarah Linden (series star Mireille Enos) and her partner Stephen Holder (Joel Kinnaman) on a grisly case — the drowning murder of Seattle teen Rosie Larsen.

This case will drive the narrative at least through

the first season, which, episode by episode, will cover 12 consecutive days of the investigation.

But there's more going on than that.

Rosie's murder will have an explosive impact on the mayoral race of Seattle City Council President Darren Richmond (Billy Campbell), as he becomes swept up by the crime. His imperiled campaign and political career is the show's second narrative strand.

A third: the aftershocks of the murder on Rosie's parents (played by Michelle Forbes and Brent Sexton) and two little brothers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV picks



Buscemi's family secrets

GENEALOGY. Actor Steve Buscemi tracks down

some of the shadier characters in his past on the genealogy series *Who Do You Think You Are?* (Friday, Citytv, NBC)

Cracking the antique market

DECOR. Learn to decorate with vintage furniture and other treasures in *Cracking Antiques*. The series attempts to demystify how to choose investment pieces and incorporate them into your home without

breaking the bank. (Friday, HGTV)

An empire state of mind

CHALLENGE. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg is the special guest on today's episode of *Project Runway*, instructing designers to draw inspiration from the city. Competitors look to the Brooklyn Bridge, the Statue of Liberty and Central Park. (Saturday, Slice) **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Winslet shines in miniseries

► HBO's adaptation of the 1941 novel Mildred Pierce will strike a chord with today's viewers ► Winslet stars as resourceful divorcée in Depression-era saga

A remarkable thing (and there are many) about the HBO miniseries Mildred Pierce is the way it breathes.

This five-part, five-and-a-half-hour adaptation of the 1941 James M. Cain novel is an unhurried period piece that sets the viewer down in Depression-era Glendale, Calif., and into the complicated world of its heroine.

But even as it inhabits a long-ago time and place, it also seems to dovetail with the current day. Leafy Glendale of 1931 isn't exactly the Dust Bowl, but it, like the rest of the country, has been slammed by economic crisis that, for the viewer, may strike a familiar chord.

Meanwhile, Mildred's plight is magnified: She is suddenly a divorcee, forced to find work to support herself and her two young daughters.

Ambitious and resourceful, Mildred will do that and then some: She builds a restaurant empire.

But during a saga stretching nearly a decade, Mildred, despite her business successes, will face class stigma and a stormy relationship with her precocious daughter, Veda.

She will also confront

her sexual self, exploring "aspects of herself she never knew existed," in the words of Todd Haynes, who directed the miniseries and co-wrote its script.

This Mildred Pierce has only a nodding acquaintance with the much-remembered 1945 film, a murder whodunit that brought its star, Joan Crawford, a best actress Oscar.

Haynes calls his version "an intensely faithful adaptation of the novel."

Indeed, it feels like a gracefully direct translation into pictures and sound, complete with breathing room for the audience "to think and to draw connections yourself," as he puts it.

Kate Winslet is a marvel as Mildred, who is on-screen nearly every scene as she goes through many changes and the pressures that propel them.

Guy Pearce shines in a pivotal supporting role as dashing man-about-town Monty Beragon, with whom Mildred shares impulsive romance, then much more.

The first two parts air Sunday at 9 p.m. ET, with subsequent episodes unfolding the next two Sundays. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



► Kate Winslet and Guy Pearce in HBO miniseries *Mildred Pierce*

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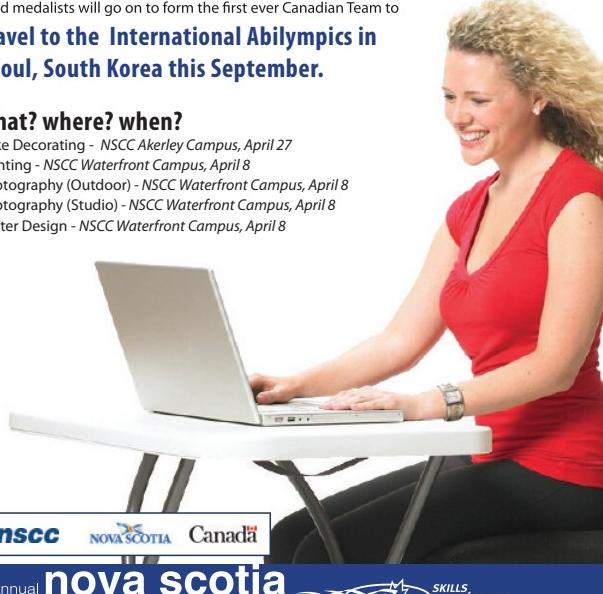
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WEEKEND, MARCH 25-27, 2011

Celebrity tweets



Charlie Sheen [[@charlie-sheen](#)] rumors? fact? while feet drag, the warlock levitates. away from fools gold, or towards the actual mine.



Mandy Moore [[@TheMandyMoore](#)] A quick trip to the south still allowed for hushpuppies and sweet tea. yeah!!



Neil Patrick Harris [[@ActuallyNPH](#)] Ok, no more answering of questions for a spell. Knuckleheads keep sending the same ones to me hundreds of times...



Russell Brand [[@rusty-rockets](#)] I hear @katyperry rocked Manchester- she's the new Noel Gallagher. I'll have to watch her eyebrows don't join up.

• METRO



Breakup blamed on Cooper's career

While speculation has run rampant as to why Renee Zellweger and Bradley Cooper split up last week,

tells Us Weekly.

"He worked really hard to get into leading man status. Renee had to take a backseat. She travelled with him to make it work."

Despite Zellweger's efforts, the source says it didn't work. "It was just not working out." • METRO

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Cool as a cucumber

 PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

It may not be on the radar for many wine-makers, but for cocktail aficionados, cucumber is the flavour of 2011.

While in San Francisco earlier this year, I headed to ANZU — a California-Japanese fusion restaurant in the posh Hotel Nikko — to score excellent sushi and get the recipe for its famous Cucumber Sake Martini. Success.

Ingredients

- 1 ½ oz sake
- ½ oz Hendrick's gin
- ½ oz lime juice
- 3 cubes diced cucumber
- Splash of simple syrup
- Ice cubes
- 1 cucumber wedge for garnish

Directions

Place cucumber cubes, simple syrup and lime juice into martini shaker and muddle ingredients. Add ice, sake and gin, and shake, shake, shake. Strain into martini glass; garnish with cucumber.

I use American-made Gekkeikan sake (\$9.45 - \$11.29) and Hendrick's gin (\$42.95 - \$44.45), which happens to be made with an infusion of roses and, wait for it, cucumber.

This creates a bright tipple with cucumber flavour, a subtle essence of sake and a whisper of gin that's perfect for springtime sipping.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



Start to finish:
1 hr and 15 mins
(plus cooling)
Servings:
8



► This tart sports a coconut crust that is both chewy and crispy, a pudding-like vanilla-almond filling and fresh fruit.

Easy as pie – literally

► Martha Stewart returns with a new book to simplify making pies and tarts

Whoever coined the phrase "easy as pie" clearly didn't bake much. Enter Martha Stewart ... again.

Stewart's latest cookbook — simply named *Pies & Tarts* — offers more than 150 recipes whose clear instructions, gorgeous photos and brevity take the intimidation out of pastry.

Organized by category from "classic" (think apple) to "free-form" (no pie

plate handy?) to "artful" (double lattice crusts, shingled leaves), the book lets users pick pies according to their skill and occasion.

From savoury tarts to mile-high meringues, the range of pastries offered makes the book useful all year round. Mini chicken potpies with herbed crust make a hearty winter meal, while vegetable tartlets filled with zucchini

and tomatoes are an elegant summer lunch.

Everyday desserts, such as a fruit tart with a cookie-like crust, can be made at any time of the year with whatever's in the market, and free-form galettes — in which dough is simply rolled and folded over a mound of fresh fruit — are easy enough for a busy Tuesday night.

Even this Coconut and

Berry Tart, which is snuggled into a macaroon-like crust of coconut and egg white, is simple and makes a great centrepiece for any dinner table.

True to the formula of Stewart's books, an instructional chapter offers the 1-2-3 of crust making and excellent tips about freezing ingredients so you're ready when guests pop by. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Coconut and Berry Tart**Preparation:**

1 Heat oven to 180°C (350°F). To prepare crust, in a bowl combine coconut, sugar, 2 egg whites, vanilla and salt. Press mix into bottom and up sides of a 23-cm (9-inch) round fluted tart pan with removable bottom.

2 To make the filling, scrape the seeds from the vanilla bean into a saucepan, then add pod. Set over medium-high heat, then stir in soy milk and 30 ml (2 tbsp) of sugar. Bring to a boil.

3 In a small bowl, whisk together 2 egg yolks, arrowroot and remaining

30 ml (2 tbsp) sugar. Add hot soy-milk mix in a slow, steady stream, whisking until combined.

4 Return mix to pan, and whisk over medium heat until thickened, about 2 minutes. Discard the vanilla pod.

Filling

- 1/2 vanilla bean, halved lengthwise
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) vanilla soy milk
- 60 ml (4 tbsp) sugar, divided
- 10 ml (2 tsp) arrowroot
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) almond paste
- 250 ml (1 cup) almond flour
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) soy cream cheese
- 75 ml (5 tbsp) apricot jam
- 1 l (4 cups) mixed fresh berries such as sliced strawberries, blueberries and raspberries

5 In bowl, use an electric mixer on medium to beat soy-milk mix and almond paste for 5 minutes. Beat in the almond flour and soy cream cheese. Spread mixture evenly over the crust. Bake for 15 minutes.

6 Cover the edges of the tart with foil. Bake until set, another 15 to 25 minutes. Let the tart cool in the pan on a wire rack. Unmold.

7 In saucepan over medium, heat jam until loose. With offset spatula, spread jam over the tart. Arrange berries on top, and serve.

3
life

Healthy kids

Samara Foisy, Heart and Stroke Foundation's registered dietitian, offers advice to help families get from point A to point Z, with nutritious stops in between.

- Suggest pizza on whole grain crust with vegetables.
- Order dressing or sauce on the side. This way, you can control how much is added.
- Opt for grilled, baked, poached or steamed dishes.

NEWS CANADA



Nathan Myhrvold conquered science. Now he's using science to conquer food.



War of the words.

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START YOUR PLEDGE AT EARTH HOUR

Opinion

JIM LEAPE

DIRECTOR GENERAL
WWF INTERNATIONAL,
THE MAIN ORGANIZER
OF EARTH HOUR



Earth Hour is always an exciting event for me. In previous years I've been lucky enough to switch off the lights at the Forbidden City in Beijing and the Eiffel Tower in Paris — just two of the thousands of cities and famous landmarks to go dark for Earth Hour. Saturday night I'll be joining the government and people of Delhi in turning off

the lights at India Gate, as part of the world's biggest event to celebrate our amazing planet — and pledge to look after it better.

That's the great thing about Earth Hour. All of us — communities, corporations and governments — can participate as global citizens and send a serious message that we want a more sustainable future for ourselves and for the Earth. But switching the

"Think about what you can change in your daily lives — at home, at work or at play — that will benefit our world. After all, we only have one planet"

lights off for 60 minutes is just the beginning. This is our chance to take actions in our everyday lives which together could add up to some pretty big changes.

For the past five years, WWF's Earth Hour has done a lot to raise awareness about why we need to live a more sustainable lifestyle. This year, for the first time, the hundreds of millions of people who join in the world's biggest voluntary participation event can pledge to go "beyond the hour." Already individuals, businesses and governments from all over the world have made

pledges to reduce wasteful consumption including recycling rainwater, cycling to work, eating less meat and, of course, switching off lights and appliances when we're not using them.

So this year I'm asking all of you to think about what you can change in your daily lives — at home, at work or at play — that will benefit our world. After all, we only have one planet — and we need to sustain it for future generations.



► Toronto's Dundas Square just before and after Earth Hour.

10

WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR PLASTIC CONSUMPTION

Plastic has had many advantages to humanity, but it's time to take stock. With landfills and oceans burdened by countless tonnes of plastic debris, reducing our dependence on the material is a matter of seismic importance. But it doesn't have to be a huge chore. Here are some small ways that can greatly reduce our fondness for plastics. ■ XIAOLIANG HUANG



WASH THE DISHES WITH OLD, CLEAN CLOTHES!

1 Old well-worn jeans, cut up into small squares, can serve as a great alternative to plastic dish scrubbers.



BUY OR DIY A REUSABLE FABRIC BAG FOR GROCERY SHOPPING

2 Choose an eco-friendly shopping bag made from 100 per cent recycled cotton.



SELL, RECYCLE AND REUSE PLASTIC PRODUCTS

3 If you need to discard items like cellphones or computers, at least recycle them at an electronics recycling center.



BUY LOOSE FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND MEAT OVER ONES PRE-PACKED IN PLASTIC.

4 Choose your desired amount of food, resulting in a double bonus: less food waste and plastic use.



SAY 'NO' TO PLASTIC BOTTLES

5 Invest in an aluminum water bottle and fill it up with your water filter jug. If you need to splash out on bottled water, make sure the bottle gets recycled!



PAPER BAG YOUR LUNCH

6 Wax paper or foil is better for wrapping your sandwiches than plastic. At least make sure the lunch container is reusable.



CHOOSE NATURAL PRODUCTS

7 Think 'natural', not 'unnatural.' Go for materials like cotton, wood, hemp or paper; they are healthier and biodegradable.



IF YOU NEED TO USE PLASTIC, MAKE SURE IT'S DURABLE

8 If plastic is the only option available, use high-quality ones, so that you can reuse them as many times as possible.



DITCH THE CLING FILM

9 When you need to store your leftovers, don't cover them with cling film. Use a plate or reusable storage container with a lid instead.



BE AWARE OF PLASTIC NEEDS AT HOME

10 You can buy laundry detergent in paper boxes instead of liquid in plastic, or a bar of soap rather than body wash in plastic containers.

PHOTOS: THINKSTOCK.COM



HERE ARE YOUR TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN THE DARK!

For Earth Hour, the Metro Life Panel team wanted to know what are YOUR Top 10 things to do in the dark!

79% of Metro respondents plan to turn off the lights for Earth Hour on March 26th @ 8:30PM.

And your Top 10 things are...

- 1** Fall asleep
- 2** “Play” under the sheets
- 3** Gaze at the stars
- 4** Makeout on the couch
- 5** Go for a walk
- 6** Eat!
- 7** Chat with your friends
- 8** Drink some wine, beer or cocktails
- 9** Play cards
- 10** Candle lit dinner

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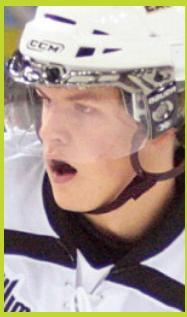
Source: Metro Life Panel survey; March 2011; 241 respondents

metro
life panel

4

sports

Quoted



"I guess that all the people in Montreal (are) home watching the Habs game cause they ain't here watching us play."

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FORWARD VIKTOR
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GAME 1 OF THE FIRST-ROUND
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MOOSEHEADS ON THURSDAY
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TWITTER ACCOUNT,
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AUDITORIUM WAS
ANNOUNCED AT JUST 1,412.



► Mooseheads right-winger Alex Souligny crashes the net as Juniors goalie Jean-Francois Berube tracks the puck in playoff action on Thursday night in Montreal.

Herd show fight in opening loss

● Juniors score five even-strength and out-shoot Moose 40-18 in Game 1 win



**MATTHEW
WUEST**
@METRONEWS.CA

The odds were already stacked against the Halifax Mooseheads. Then they lost what amounted to a full forward line to the flu on game day.

Not surprisingly, it didn't go well.

The underdog Mooseheads, with 16 players making their QMJHL playoff debuts in the franchise's first post-season game in almost three

years, lost 5-3 to the host Montreal Juniors on Thursday night at Verdun Auditorium to fall behind 1-0 in the best-of-seven first round.

"The guys got a real taste of playoff hockey tonight," said Mooseheads head coach Bobby Smith.

With Darcy Ashley, Gabriel Desjardins and Francis Turbie flu-stricken and quarantined at the team's hotel, the Mooseheads got the game's first goal from Matthew Boudreau but were out-

shot 15-3 in the first and fell behind 3-1 after 20 minutes.

The Juniors bumped that lead up to 5-1 early in the third, but the Mooseheads later rallied with a pair of power-play goals from defenceman Konrad Abeltshauser in the final three minutes.

"It was a wild finish, and I thought we played better as the game went on," Smith said. "We were better in the second than in the first, better in the third than in the second."

The late goals, combined with a six-for-six penalty-killing effort, are positives for the Herd heading into Game 2 on Friday at 8:05 p.m. in Montreal.

If Game 1 is an indication, it could be a rough series. There were 11 minor penalties called in the final eight minutes.

"The game got a little nasty late in the game," Smith said. "Our guys felt like it was an interesting finish, and we look forward to playing (Game 2)."

Rainmen get help from Kebs in playoff chase

The Quebec Kebs did the Halifax Rainmen a huge favour on Thursday night.

The Kebs beat the Saint John Mill Rats 87-85 to leave the Mill Rats and Rainmen tied for the Premier Basketball League's fourth and final playoff spot with matching 8-9 records.

Both the Mill Rats and the Rainmen have three games remaining.

In addition to a pair of head-to-head matchups, the Rainmen host the last-place Dayton Air Strikers (3-16) on Friday at 7 p.m. and the Mill Rats host the first-place Lawton-Fort Sill Cavalry (17-2) on Sunday.

The Rainmen currently have a plus-eight edge over the Mill Rats in head-to-head point differential, the tiebreaker if the two teams finish with matching records.

● METRO

X-Men drop opening University Cup match

The St. Francis Xavier X-Men opened the University Cup Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's hockey championship on Thursday with a loss. The X-Men fell 2-1 to the McGill Redmen in Fredericton, N.B., and face the Alberta Golden Bears on Friday at 2 p.m. The championship game is Sunday at 8 p.m. and will be televised live on Rogers Sportsnet.

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AFTER A LONG WINTER THE ICE STILL COMPELS US

Opinion

SCOTT RUSSELL

FIELD OF PLAY



In parts of the East and West, Canadians have been hammered by snow. Old Man Winter is refusing to loosen his grip.

But with the calendar having flipped into spring, the sweet season for Canadian sport is in full swing. Bone-chilling temperatures notwithstanding, there's much to feast on. Coast to coast to coast and everywhere in between, there's plenty to cheer for at this time of changeover.

The "Boys of Summer" will make their way north soon. March Madness reigns south of the border. These are encouraging signs of deliverance from the depths of long, cold nights, which have dominated the first months of 2011.

Still, we hope the ice will linger ... it runs through our veins.

Our national obsession is entering the critical phase.

Sports in brief



Canada still in the running

CURLING. Canada's medal hopes remain alive at the Capital One World Women's Curling Championship after two key victories to close out the round robin.

But Amber Holland and

her Regina rink need to win a playoff game to keep going.

Sweden (9-2) and China (8-3) clinched the top two playoff spots, with Denmark in third. Canada and Switzerland will meet in a playoff game for fourth on Friday (TSN, 9 a.m. ET).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oswalt shakes off ball to head

MLB. Philadelphia Phillies right-hander Roy Oswalt was in good spirits the day after taking a line drive under the right ear while

pitching against the Tampa Bay Rays.

Oswalt said that he had a small lump on the back of his head but doesn't have a headache. He expects to make his next start. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eskimos sign former NCAA star receiver

CFL. The Edmonton Eskimos are hoping Brandon James will be a difference-maker in the CFL.

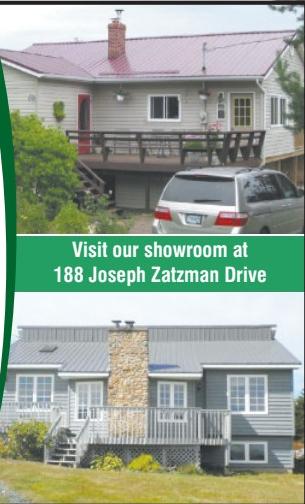
The Eskimos signed the former NCAA star to be a kick returner on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The Stanley Cup playoffs are preceded by the annual run to the post-season, the desperate drives cobbled together by ambitious teams with fanatical backing. So the Canadiens and Canucks are home and cool, but the Leafs and Flames still have fires to put out.

It makes for great hockey drama.

The national pastime of curling has emerged from Canadian arenas to compete on the world stage. Prairie rinks from Regina and Winnipeg have steadfast missions to assure us all that we are still the international front-runner in this enticing game of skill and precision.

Amber Holland and Jeff Stoughton face a subliminal pressure where winning is taken for granted and losing is a dire warning that something so intrinsically Canadian is slipping away. Curling has kept us company through the long winter. Victory at the world championships is a sure sign of spring.

The national passion of figure skating will also witness its culminating event. The world championships will happen, albeit deeper into the season than anticipated.

Canadians are at the forefront. The national men's champion, Patrick Chan, has an inside track on the title. Like Jackson, Orser, Browning, Stojko and Buttle, Chan has designs on the top of the podium. This is not to mention ice dancers Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, hoping to return from injury to defend their crown.

Figure skating promises Canadian tradition at this time of year.

All of this points to an extension of the cold season to allow our obsession, our pastime and our passion to work their magic.

In our minds we're still stuck in winter. But as Canadian sports fans it's the springtime of our content.

Streak. Busted



► India's Yuvraj Singh celebrates as Australian bowler Brett Lee looks on at the Cricket World Cup in Ahmedabad, India.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India ends Aussie run

India ended Australia's 12-year World Cup domination Thursday, with Sachin Tendulkar leading a star-studded batting lineup to a five-wicket victory that set up a semifinal classic against archrival Pakistan. The Australians were unbeaten in 34 consecutive World Cup matches until back-to-back defeats to Pakistan and India within six days.

Cecil still looking for his velocity

It was almost an hour after he'd come off the mound, but Blue Jays starter Brett Cecil was still steaming in the locker room.

Cecil's workmanlike effort in a 5-3 loss to the Atlanta Braves on Thursday was undone in a five-run fifth, capped by a three-run fifth, capped by a three-run Dan Uggla homer. One bad pitch makes little difference in a spring training game.

But Cecil said afterward that he has been struggling to find the velocity on his two-seam and four-seam fastballs. Pitches that generally top out in the low 90s are clocking in at 87 and 88 m.p.h. this spring.

"Anybody in the league can jump on 87 if it's elevated a little bit," Cecil said disgustedly.

Cecil said.

His manager backed him on that.

"I'm not overly concerned," Jays boss John Farrell said. "It's not that he's lost velocity off his fastball. I just don't think his velocity is built up to where it will be and that will come through continuing to get innings."

"I'm just going to try some different things, in terms of working out," Cecil said. He noted that fellow starter Ricky Romero pointed out that he may be gripping the ball too hard, trying to overthrow the heater.

"I don't think anybody's concerned. Shouldn't be,"

FARRELL NEWS SERVICE

With Brandon Morrow shelved short-term by forearm soreness, Cecil has temporarily inherited the No. 3 spot in the rotation.

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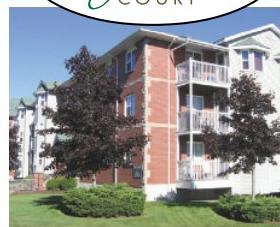
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No phone calls please. Only successful candidates will be contacted.
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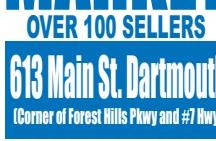
\$0 down, taxes & fees included
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Cars & Trucks for Sale



Cars & Trucks for Sale

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Dogs

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Other



Looking for Male Hedgehog

My lady Hedgehog Ruby is looking for a boyfriend if you have a male Hedgehog who would like to spend time with her please Email: rubywantsbabies@gmail.com



LOST DOG - BABY
Baby, a 3 year old Pug/Lhasa Mix is missing in area. Her family misses her and would like to have her home. She is very tired and frightened she has a collar but no tags. If you have seen her please contact Animal Control (902)440-4000 www.NovaScotiaLostDogNetwork.com

PERSONALS

Personals

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ymason@ns.sympatico.ca
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Events



Gypsy

A Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band

Saturday, March 26, 2011 Armdale Yacht Club, Purcell's Cove Rd.
Showtime 8:30 pm For tickets call Sharon @ 229-0798 \$15.00 in Advance With Special Guests PLANET GROOVE featuring Irene Robichaud.

Community Events



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this.

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Community Events

Community Events

Multicultural Health and Wellness Fair
FOR IMMIGRANTS AND NEWCOMERS
Free admission

Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:00am – 2:30pm St. Andrew's Community Centre
6955 Bayers Rd., Halifax, NS

- Over 40 booths and 10 workshops
- Health information and interpretation in many languages
- Childcare provided
- Contact Information: Pat Belgrave, 209-4982

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Community Events

Community

Crossword**Across**

1 Surrounded by
6 "— the ramparts ..."
9 Periodical, for short
12 Big name in grills
13 Catcher's place?
14 Lenniux milieu
15 Summarizing stanza
16 Stray
18 Absolutely
20 Unfavorable votes
21 "Eureka!"
23 1974 kidnap org.
24 Dodge
25 Green shot
27 Kazakhstan's —
Mountains
29 Believer
31 "Gunsmoke" star
35 Watt power
37 World's fair
38 Wool eaters
41 IRS employee
43 Manhandle
44 Eastern bigwig
45 Shrimp recipe
47 Spread out from the center
49 Plank
52 Dance syllable
53 "Of course"
54 Lauder of cosmetics
55 "2001" computer
56 Type measures
57 Clarinetist's supply

Down

1 Shock and —
2 Chaps
3 Render unnecessary
4 Night light
5 Crossword diagrams

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | |
| 15 | | | | | | 16 | | | 17 | | | |
| | | | 18 | | | 19 | | | 20 | | | |
| 21 | 22 | | 23 | | | 24 | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | 26 | 27 | | 28 | | | | | | |
| 29 | | | 30 | | 31 | | | 32 | 33 | 34 | | |
| 38 | 39 | 40 | | | 41 | | 42 | | 43 | | | |
| 44 | | | | 45 | | | 46 | | | | | |
| 47 | | | 48 | | | 49 | | | 50 | 51 | | |
| 52 | | | 53 | | | 54 | | | | | | |
| 55 | | | 56 | | | 57 | | | | | | |

6 Major trial

7 Did surveillance on

8 Gun the engine

9 Cat's call (Var.)

10 Performed

11 Gaggle members

17 Queued

19 Cheer up

21 Suitable

22 "What?"

24 Listener

26 Month after Elul

28 Florida city

30 Rds.

32 Atone (for)

33 Hot tub

34 Boar's mate

36 Entry

38 Parade

39 Nebraska city

40 Re ebb and flow

42 Caution-light color

45 Branch

46 Sit for a shoot

48 Nay canceler

50 Crimson

51 — Moines

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | L | B | A | C | R | Y | A | G | E | S |
| N | O | E | A | O | H | O | P | O | L | O |
| D | U | E | L | V | O | W | O | V | A | E |
| S | T | R | O | V | E | L | E | G | E | N |
| M | O | P | S | W | A | R | S | E | R | N |
| B | A | R | E | E | R | E | O | W | E | R |
| A | R | O | M | A | T | I | C | B | R | E |
| V | O | L | A | T | O | N | E | D | E | R |
| S | H | E | R | P | A | V | O | T | E | X |
| C | O | R | N | E | E | T | R | I | M | X |
| A | B | B | E | R | R | H | O | R | A | X |
| N | O | S | Y | W | A | S | A | W | E | S |

Yesterday's answer**Today's horoscope**

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Aries March 21-April 20 The obstacles you face may be huge, but you have what it takes to overcome each and every one of them. With courage and confidence there is nothing you cannot do.

Taurus April 21-May 20 No doubt you would like nothing better than to cut yourself off from the outside world, but that is not an option at the moment. Make the best possible job of what it is you are asked to do. Be exceptional.

Gemini May 22-June 21 Some things are important and some things are not. You need to keep that in mind at all times. This can be a productive time for you, but don't waste energy on trivial things.

Cancer June 22-July 22 If you are not yet getting the rewards and the respect you think you deserve, don't worry. In a matter of days your name will be up in lights. The Sun in Aries makes you wildly ambitious. Be the best.

Leo July 23-Aug. 23 You may be tempted to go on some sort of trip of discovery today. That's fine, but make sure you take a map or a compass because there is a possibility that you might lose your way.

Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 You will see or hear something today that encourages you to view the world in a new way. This new way of thinking will answer many of the questions you've been asking.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Make it your business to find out what is upsetting someone you love, then make it your business to put it right for him or her. That may sound like a tall order but if anyone can do it, you can.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If someone with whom you live, work or socialize is upsetting your emotional balance, there's no reason to hang around. Keep it moving.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 At last, you've got a target to aim for. At last, you've got a challenge that is worthy of your talents. You've waited a long time for this opportunity, so don't waste it. Don't think, just act. Your higher self will guide you.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Stay calm, keep setbacks in perspective and know how to laugh at yourself. If you can do those three simple things then you can do anything. Your world is what you make of it, so make it a masterpiece.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Why are you still asking other people for their opinions? You already know what path you should be taking, so start walking. It's easy: Just put one foot in front of the other.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Think and act positive at all times and in all situations. There may be all sorts of negative things going on in the world but they don't have to affect you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | 3 | 2 | 8 | | 1 | | |
| 2 | | | 1 | | | | 4 | | 8 |
| 3 | 4 | | 1 | | 2 | | 5 | 6 | |
| | | | 3 | | | | | | |
| 6 | 2 | | 4 | | 7 | | 9 | 1 | |
| | | | 4 | | | | 9 | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | 7 | |
| | 9 | | 5 | 1 | 6 | | 8 | | |

Yesterday's answer

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Dear Rashley,
Since we have been together I have been the happiest person in the world! My life wouldn't be the same without you. You are the love of my life! Love you forever & always STABI

Ashok, You make me smile. You make me laugh. You're the best friend ever that a girl friend could ever ask for. LOVE YOU, DORA

Warren, just cuz. U are the most precious man I have ever known. Always & Forever! PBWY xoxo. LAURIE

Dearest Iggyboo, happy two year anniversary! I'm lucky to have such a great boyfriend and best guy friend! Thanks for being there through all the rough times. xoxo SC

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

Today 1°/-6° Flurries 40%

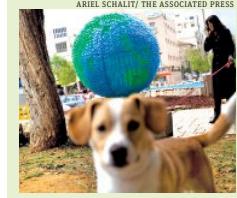
Saturday -2°/-7° Variable

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Caption contest**You write it!**

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



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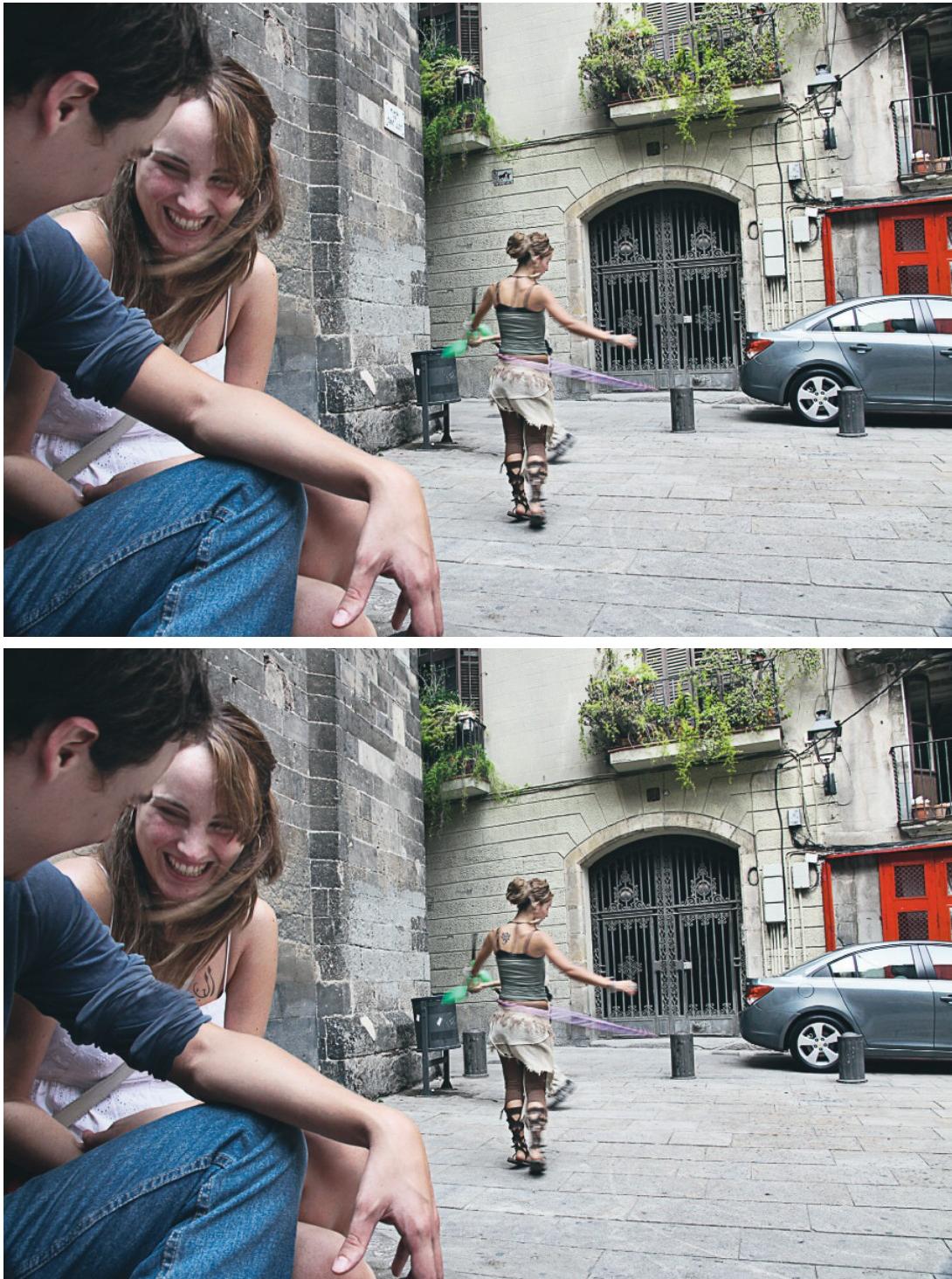
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LOOK AGAIN

SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Barcelona, Spain – A little lovebird action and some serious hoola skills keep the all-new 2011 Cruze entertained in a Barcelona square. As the Official Ride of the JUNO Awards, it's no surprise the Cruze knew exactly where the party was at.



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2011 Chevrolet Cruze 1. White sign removed from left wall 2. Added white sticker to trash can 3. Added small pillar left of dancer 4. Removed rear door handle from 2011 Chevrolet Cruze 5. Removed decor from gate behind 6. Removed small box on the wall above red trim 7. Removed sign on wall left of gate 8. Boy's sleeve is longer 9. Tattoo added on dancer's back 10. Tattoo added to girl's chest

CRUZE
JUNO *the* **Awards**

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